

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney gratefully acknowledges the interview held on October 8, 2002, with Examiner Kimberly Nguyen and her supervisor, Examiner Kelly.

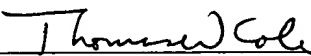
At that interview, it was agreed between all parties that if claim 1 were revised to recite a substrate "consisting of a plastic film having a pair of surfaces opposed to each other . . .," that the resulting claim would distinguish the invention over the Matsubara '715 patent, which requires a substrate that includes reinforcing carbon fibers.

The instant *Amendment* revises claim 1 in accordance with the agreement reached at the interview. Accordingly, claim 1 is clearly patentable.

As claim 2 depends upon allowable claim 1, this claim is likewise patentable at least by reason of its dependency.

Now that all of the claims are believed to be allowable, the prompt issuance of a *Notice of Allowance* is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED UP VERSION

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A light shielding blade material for use in an optical apparatus, comprising:

a substrate [composed] consisting of a plastic film having a pair of surfaces opposed to each other;

a shield coating being capable of blocking an incident light and being formed on each surface of the substrate, the shield coating being composed of a paint resin containing a carbon black;

a reinforcement member disposed on each shield coating, the reinforcement member being composed of a thermosetting resin prepreg sheet reinforced with fibers arranged in an alignment direction, and hardened to laminate with the substrate through the shield coating, the thermosetting resin prepreg sheet containing no carbon black; and

a lubricant coating having a black appearance and a lubricity sufficient to suppress a surface friction, the lubricant coating being formed on each reinforcement member such that the lubricant coating and the shield coating are separated from each other by the reinforcement member.